

**RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

MARKUP

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H. Res. 577

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**RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF RELATIONS BE-
TWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2004

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 3:05 p.m. in Room 2255, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Doug Bereuter (Chairman of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. BEREUTER. The Europe Subcommittee will come to order.

Pursuant to notice, I call up the resolution H. Res. 577, recognizing 50 years of relations between the United States Government and European Union, for purposes of the markup.

Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[H. Res. 577 follows:]

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 577

Recognizing 50 years of relations between the United States Government
and the European Union.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia,
Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Ms. LEE) submitted the following res-
olution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing 50 years of relations between the United States
Government and the European Union.

Whereas on May 9, 1950, 6 countries of Europe, committed
to promoting a united Europe, founded the European
Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which has evolved
into the European Union (EU);

Whereas in November 1953 the United States sent its first
diplomatic observers to the European Coal and Steel
Community;

Whereas in 1954 the High Authority of the European Coal
and Steel Community commissioned the United States
law firm of Clearly and Gottlieb to open an Information
Office in Washington, District of Columbia, thus estab-

lishing the first official presence of the precursor to the European Union in the United States;

Whereas on November 18, 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell, while in Brussels, Belgium, dedicating a plaque commemorating 50 years of cooperation between the United States and the European Union stated that “the United States embraces the European Union as a global partner for peace and security . . . and that the world’s best hope for meeting [global] challenges still rests, in large part, on a deep, broad, and lasting partnership between Europe and the United States”;

Whereas although differences of opinion have existed on a broad array of issues over the past 50 years, there remains an important foundation of shared values across the Atlantic which reaffirms that the current strengths and common interests of the United States and the European Union far outweigh the differences;

Whereas an effective political partnership between the United States and the European Union has continued to develop over the past 50 years in many areas of vital common interest which has resulted in the United States and European Union consistently and effectively working together for prosperous, stable, and democratic world;

Whereas the events of the past several years, including the events of September 11, 2001, have increased the need for forceful and coordinated strategic cooperation between the United States and the European Union on economic, trade, and domestic and foreign security matters;

Whereas the economic foundations for the United States-European Union partnership are a central and irreversible reality of the world economy;

Whereas to effectively manage the United States-European Union partnership, closer institutional linkages and other mechanisms to facilitate more direct and continuous United States-European Union dialogue are necessary; and

Whereas in May 2004, an event commemorating 50 years of relations between the United States and the European Union will take place in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of relations
3 between the United States and the European Union;

4 (2) commends the United States mission to the
5 European Union and the mission of the European
6 Commission to the United States for the profes-
7 sional representation of the interests of the United
8 States and European Union over the past 50 years;

9 (3) recognizes that continued cooperation be-
10 tween the United States and the European Union is
11 essential to resolving international disputes, pro-
12 moting peace, expanding global economic oppor-
13 tunity, combating global threats, and being prepared
14 to respond to unforeseen events; and

15 (4) encourages enhanced United States-Euro-
16 pean Union strategic discussion and institutional co-
17 operation, including increased discussions between
18 representatives of the United States Congress and

5

4

- 1 the European Parliament through the Transatlantic
- 2 Legislator's Dialogue.

○

Mr. BEREUTER. I do have a statement, and then I will recognize the Ranking Member.

Fifty-three years ago, acting on an idea first proposed by French businessman Jean Monnet and formally proposed by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, six nations of Europe signed the European Coal and Steel Community, ECSC, Treaty in Paris on April 18th, 1951.

This effort, which sought to rebuild a war-devastated economic system by attempting to integrate the economies of Europe, has evolved over the years to become what we now know and refer to as the European Union.

In 1953, the United States Government sent its first diplomatic observers to the European Coal and Steel Community, and 1 year later, in 1954, the High Authority of the ECSC established its first official presence in the United States.

Last November, the U.S. Mission in Brussels, led by Ambassador Rockwell Schnauble, held an event to kick off the 50th anniversary of relations between the United States and European Union. Secretary of State Powell attended the ceremony and dedicated a plaque commemorating the anniversary. In his statement, the Secretary noted that,

“The United States embraces the European Union as a global partner for peace and security, and that the world’s best hope for meeting global challenges still rests in large part on the deep, broad and lasting partnership between Europe and the United States.”

Next week, on May 6th, a similar event will be held here in Washington, DC, at the State Department which will continue the celebration. It is also interesting to note that by virtue of the enlargement of the European Union, which will take place on Saturday, the celebration will now be with 25 nations of Europe.

H. Res. 577 recognizes the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-EU relations, reaffirms the importance of cooperation between the United States and Europe, and encourages enhanced dialogue with Europe and its Union.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

I turn to the gentleman from New York for a statement he may have.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of my good friend and colleague, Mr. Wexler, I join you today as Ranking Member in strong support of H. Res. 577.

This resolution, as you mentioned, recognizes 50 years of relations between the United States Government and the European Union. Relations between the United States and European countries reach back to the founding of our great Nation and even before. Yet those friendships have only become stronger since the end of World War II and the founding of the first European Coal and Steel Community over 50 years ago.

Today, our close relations are based more than on any one factor. They are underpinned by shared values, similar democratic forms of government, robust trade relationships, and close ties between our peoples.

In H. Res. 577, we commemorate the 50 years since the European Coal and Steel Community opened an office in Washington, DC, here, establishing the first official presence of the precursor of the European Union in the United States.

The resolution also recognizes a continued cooperation between the United States and the European Union is essential to resolving international disputes, promoting peace, expanding global economic opportunities, combating global threats, and being prepared to respond to unforeseen events.

It further encourages enhanced United States-European Union strategic discussion and institutional cooperation, including increased discussions between representatives of the United States Congress and the European Parliament through the transatlantic legislators dialogue.

Yet, as we all know, recent events have shown that challenges to America's relationship with the EU does sometimes rise to the surface. Different approaches among EU member states toward Iraq, the Middle East, or the Balkans and competing interests on trade matters has at times complicated our otherwise very strong ties.

For this reason, we must rededicate ourselves to a close working relationship between the U.S. and the EU, because the issues and values that unite us are far greater in number and importance than those which might divide us. Cooperation against international terrorism remains strong, while the EU and U.S. continue to promote democracy and good government throughout the world.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 577 and ask that you add me as a cosponsor of this resolution. I urge the Subcommittee to favorably report the legislation so that we can appropriately commemorate this important anniversary in the relationship between the United States and the European Union. Thank you.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you very much, Mr. Engel. I would be honored to have you as a cosponsor, and that will be accomplished.

I think you are right to remind us, of course, that we do have matters of contention between us frequently but that the things that bind us together are far more important and the objectives that we have in common are far more important. That is why the maintenance of this relationship on a positive basis is so important.

I have an amendment at the desk which, without objection, will be considered as read.

[The information referred to follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 577**OFFERED BY MR. BEREUTER**

In the first clause of the preamble, strike “6 countries of Europe” and all that follows and insert the following: “a proposal that the countries of Europe, committed to promoting a united Europe, was introduced and led to the founding in 1951 of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which has evolved into the European Union (EU);”.

Page 4, line 2, strike “Legislator’s Dialogue” and insert “Legislators’ Dialogue”.

Mr. BEREUTER. It simply makes a change in the preamble referencing the difference between the beginning of the dialogue and the actual signing, and the changes are purely minor. I don't know if you have seen it or not, Mr. Engel.

The question occurs on the amendment. All of those in favor will say aye. Those opposed will say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

Are there other amendments?

If not, the Chair will entertain a motion that the resolution be reported favorably to the Full Committee as amended.

Mr. ENGEL. So moved.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Engel.

The question occurs on the motion to report the resolution H. Res. 577 favorably, as amended. All those in favor will say aye. All opposed say no.

The motion is approved, and the bill is reported favorably without objection.

The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

Thank you for being here to expedite this matter today before we actually begin the celebration on Saturday.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you. And I declare the Subcommittee markup is adjourned. Thank you for your attendance.

[Whereupon, at 3:15 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

